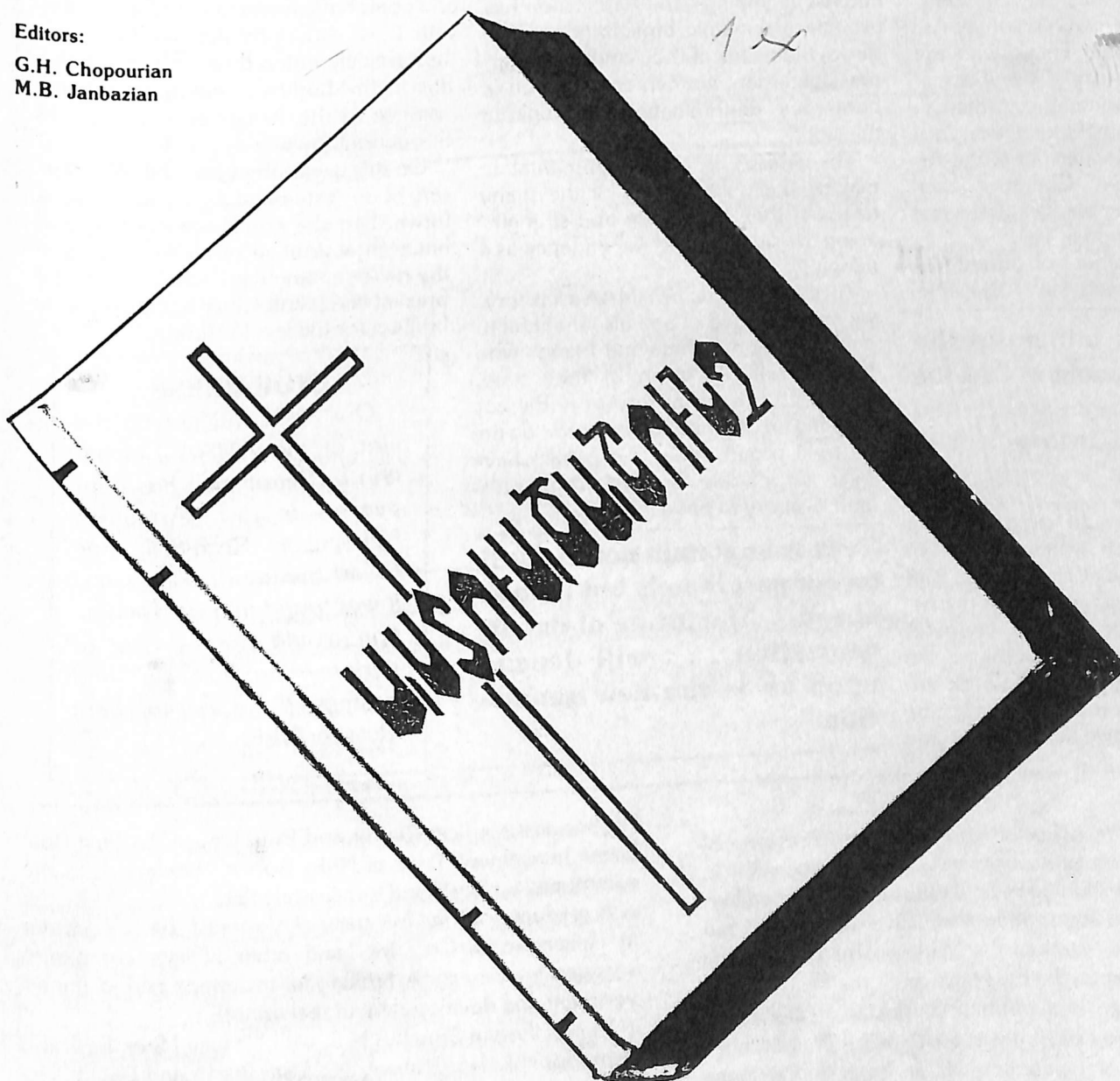


# AMMAA News

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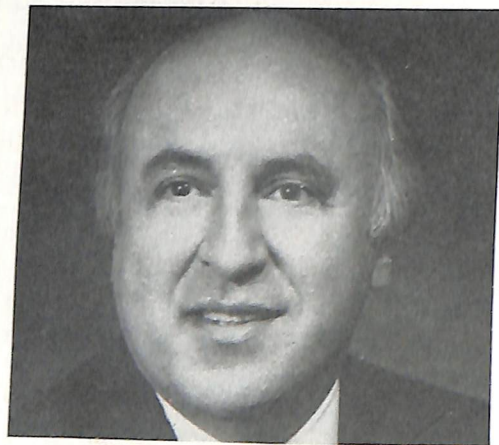


Cover of the NEWLY REVISED Bible in Armenian. For Special message see page 11



## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY: WE FACE THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

By Robert Hekemian



Robert Hekemian

The year 1983 marks the 65th anniversary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Those who are familiar with the history of the Association know that this unique Armenian organization has come a long way since the clergy and lay leadership of the Armenian Evangelical Churches convened in Worcester, Massachusetts and voted its establishment in 1918.

The founding fathers of the AMAA never imagined that the Association

**"The founding fathers of the AMAA never imagined that the Association they established would expand into a worldwide outreach."**

they established would expand into a worldwide outreach with over 40 different social, educational, relief and evangelistic services rendered to the Armenian communities of 13 countries around the world. In establishing the AMAA, the founding fathers simply envisioned the creation of an organization that would (1) give expression and

strength to the missionary spirit of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the United States, and (2) serve the spiritual, physical, social and educational needs of their Armenian brethren overseas.

In 1918, the Armenian Evangelical Churches were small in number and limited in their resources.

It was during this time and under these circumstances the AMAA was founded. Its purpose? To alleviate the suffering of fellow Armenians and to strengthen their Christian faith.

As the AMAA has grown from its humble beginnings, the Association has become a dynamic organization which serves the needs of thousands of underprivileged men, women and children of numerous denominations throughout the world.

The AMAA is also instrumental in making the public aware of the many needs of their fellowmen and strengthening the sense of interdependence as a people.

At this juncture in AMAA's History, we are reminded of and also thankful to our devoted members and friends who have unselfishly given of their time, talents and financial resources thereby creating an organization of which we are all truly proud. You, the public, have been responsible for AMAA's progress and its ability to serve.

**"...it is important not to dwell on our past laurels but to look ahead. . . The future of the organization . . . will depend upon us - the new generation."**

In 65 years a great deal has been accomplished. However, it is important not to dwell on our past laurels but to look ahead, fully recognizing the many changing needs, and to structure ourselves to address these needs adequately. The **future** of the organization, so carefully nurtured and strengthened since its founding, is now our **challenge**. The growth, as well as the service the AMAA will render in the ensuing years, will depend upon us - the **new generation**.

AMAA's financial resources, talent and goals have never been stronger. It is with these strengths that we have enthusiastically entered the decade of the 80s in the hope of continuing our assistance to the Armenian communities throughout the world.

On this occasion of the 65th Anniversary of our esteemed Association, I look forward to the continued support and financial assistance of all Armenians in the never-ending endeavor to make the present less painful and the future a little brighter for the less fortunate.

### STOP PRESS

*Our Press Release on the visit of the AMAA Delegation to Beirut may have appeared in the Armenian Newspapers. Regretfully, due to last minute developments it was found that the Delegation would not be able to perform productively and postponed the visit to about October 20th.*

Hackensack Medical Center and President of the First Real Estate Investment Trust of N.J., Robert's leadership in the community is clearly and significantly felt.

A graduate of the University of Vermont, he is a partner in Hekemian & Co., Inc. and other affiliate companies engaged in real estate, brokerage, insurance and in the investment and development of real estate.

Robert lives in Tenafly, N.J. with his wife Mary Jane and their four children: Robert, Jr.; Lisa; Bryan and David. The Hekemians, members of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, were a positive force in the relocation of the church out of West New York to the present location in Paramus where it is prospering.

## ARMENIAN EVANGELICALS SAY THANK-YOU TO THEIR RETIRED MINISTERS

By G. H. Chopourian

The saying, "In everything there is a first" has been validated for Armenian Evangelicals of these days. As a first time in the history of the Armenian Evangelical Movement, a Recognition Banquet was slated for Saturday, May 14 to honor en masse 21 retired ministers who have served the Armenian Evangelical Protestants for a period of at least a half a century. The idea of the group recognition emanated from a suggestion by a layman in Toronto who, inspired by the guidance and inspiration he had received from his former pastor, wanted the evangelical bodies to extend some recognition to the aged, retired servants of God. After the Board members of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. had studied the matter, a joint committee of the AMAA and AEUNA was established to plan for the recognition of the retired ministers and their wives as well as the widows of deceased ministers to say "thank you" to them.

Armenian Evangelicalism began with the first church being established in Istanbul in 1846 with 41 members. In less than a half a century, evangelical truths spread all over Minor Armenia like a forest fire. Elementary schools, schools for girls for the first time among Arme-

nians, high schools, colleges, theological seminaries mushroomed all over our beloved Giligia.

The elementary and primary schools at one time numbered 500 and a lay and Sunday School student body of over 50,000. By 1895 there were eight high schools for girls, two colleges and two collegiate institutes. Why? Because evangelicals were convinced as a result of the impact of the Scriptures, that mothers, who are the best influence on children, should be educated to perform that task well. There were, further, eight colleges, five seminaries and forty-four high schools with boarding departments spread over Cilician Armenia, whose population was variously estimated at 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 million.

There was opposition, of course, and ridicule of the reformed religion, but it was not too long before the movement was accepted as part of Armenian life because of the distinctive good product that the churches and the schools produced.

The Armenian Evangelical Movement made at least ten positive and valuable contributions to Armenian life. These may be enumerated as follows: First, the concept of the spirit of religious toleration was eventually accepted. The time came when bishops condescended

to preach from Armenian Evangelical pulpits, when invited, and permitted Evangelical pastors to return the compliment. Second, "the religious, educational and social life of the Armenian nation was leavened by the influence of this spiritual movement." Third, the Evangelicals, with the assistance of the missionaries, created an enviable system of education from kindergarten to college from which, gradually, large numbers of Armenian Apostolic children benefited, with the additional benefit of creating Armenian Apostolic competition. The fourth major contribution was the translation as well as the popularization of the Bible, which achievement, Orchanian concedes, also helped purify the spoken language. Fifth, the Evangelicals influenced the introduction of a Sunday School system into the Apostolic Church. Sixth, the Evangelicals managed to keep church and politics separate and were able to have a place in the church for men and women of all political views - thus mediating against divisiveness, a condition which is praised by the Armenian Apostolics who are plagued with serious divisive conflicts. A seventh important contribution was the influence of the Evangelicals to keep the Apostolic community open to reform or to lead to a Roman Catholic

(Continued on page 4)

### The Inspirational Corner

## ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY WEEK BLESSED IS THE CHILD

- ... whose innate imagination has been turned into channels of creative effort;
- ... whose efforts to achieve have found encouragement and kindly commendation; who has learned freedom from selfishness through responsibility and cooperation with others;
- ... who discovers that all life is a process of education and that each graduation is but a commencement into a higher grade;
- ... who has someone who believes in him and has high hopes for him;
- ... who has someone to whom he can carry his problems unafraid;
- ... whose home is a haven of happiness; for whom life is a book of knowledge and is privileged to turn the pages one by one;
- ... who is allowed to pursue his curiosity into every worthwhile field of information;
- ... who has someone who understands that childhood's griefs are real and call for understanding and sympathy;
- ... who is led gently by the hand along the pathway of life by one who is a guide, companion, and inspiration;
- ... whose love of the true, the beautiful and the good has been nourished through the years;

### BLESSED IS THAT HOME, OR COMMUNITY, OR NATION

- ... which sees in the child the hope of the future and dedicates itself to the realization of that hope.

From News Bulletin of the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church





type of counter-reformation. The late A.A. Bedikian, believing this influence to have brought the Armenian Apostolic Church closer to the Evangelicals, wrote that the same "Evangelicalism that the Mother Church could not contain or tolerate over a century ago, is not only tolerated but cultivated and cherished at the present time." An eighth influence, though touched upon lightly under the third influence listed, must receive greater attention. A fair evaluation of the educational activities of the Armenian Protestants will demonstrate that the Armenian nation, on the whole, was stimulated to competition in the founding of new and the improving of old schools to the extent that some Protestants are beginning to state today that the Armenian Apostolic Schools are getting ahead of the Protestant ones. A situation which, if valid, gives nothing but joy and deep satisfaction to the Armenian Protestants. The ninth influence, though a literary one, is most important. It has to do with the purification of the spoken Armenian language of the nineteenth century. K. Orchanian in his *History of the Armenian Language and Linguistics* (1913, pp. 114-115) grants that the translation of the Scriptures into the vernacular Armenian helped purify the spoken Armenian language of the time. The spoken language, put into writing in a book as important as the Bible, developed a uniform Armenian vernacular and helped systematize grammatical constructions. In the tenth and final place, Evangelicalism provided a haven to those who had imbibed agnostic views during their intellectual training. Many had imbibed, with the good, the concepts of "infidelity" of France and the agnosticism of Voltaire who had "emptied the religious concept of nearly all its content and made God an unknowable Supreme Being, remote originator and guarantor of an orderly universe and moral law." The Armenian Evangelical Movement, with its criticism of the ceremonial and sacerdotal in the Armenian Church, became a haven to a number who had become critical of the worse aspects of the Church. Therefore, as a result of the Evangelical stand, instead of turning totally agnostic, or forming a reform group of more radical nature, a number were able to enter more readily into the religious movement in which "living according to the dictates of Jesus" was acceptable to

them. Without this escape valve, it is feared that the Armenian Apostolic Church would have found itself face to face with a more dangerous and radical resistance or it would have lost to agnosticism a great number of its learned men.

The ministers and a half dozen widows of ministers who were honored served in many different areas which include Cyprus, Iran, Canada, Kessab, Aleppo, Beirut, Egypt and the United States. These servants of God worked valiantly under difficult conditions and circumstances. They served in an immigrant and displaced situation, attempting to meet language adjustment, work and educational problems of their respective communities. They served at meager wages to say the least. But, despite the difficulties they faced in the Middle East, after the self-exile from Giligia, enormous institutions, churches, schools and colleges were created. Every minister was the supervisor of the total work of the church school, working with the appointed principal and the board of directors of the school, in addition to his numerous duties of preaching, counseling, visiting and engaging in protocol demands. They lifted up the principal truths of the reformation: The Bible the conduct of life; salvation in Christ; the sainthood of the believers. They did all this because they believed in the Scriptures, they loved their Lord and they sympathized with their suffering people.

As an evangelical, I am mighty proud of the lay leadership that has taken the torch of gratitude and has lit it brightly so that everyone may see. It is indeed a glorious thing that the sacrificial labors of the servants of God in their service to the Armenian people are being recognized and gratefully acknowledged.

The Scriptures have been fulfilled, I have no doubt. "No," taught Christ, "when you receive an invitation, go sit down in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he will say, 'come up higher, my friend.' Then all your fellow guests will see the respect in which you are held. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled; and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:10-11, NEB).

Our pastors have sat in the lowest places for a long time; they have hidden themselves in humble corners. Now, they are being asked: "come up higher, friends," and it feels good. We salute the conceivers of the idea and its active executors.

## VAHE M. MARGANIAN: A LEADING SCIENTIST



Vahe Marganian

Vahe M. Marganian is a Professor of Chemistry at the Massachusetts State College at Bridgewater, currently on a sabbatical leave at Oxford University in England.

Vahe was born in Beirut to the Reverend and Mrs. M. Marganian and received his early schooling in the Armenian Evangelical schools of Syria and Lebanon. He continued his education in California and received his Ph. D. in Inorganic and Physical Chemistry from Clemson University. In addition to his teaching duties at Bridgewater, Professor Marganian directed graduate students and was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the College. He feels very enthused about his current research at Oxford on how calcium binds to different aminoacids in such proteins as Calmodulin and to brain protein S-100. He feels that many important problems in medicine, such as arthritis and muscular dystrophy, will be solved by applying basic chemical principles and the use of sophisticated instruments. He has carried out similar research as a Visiting Scientist at the Universities of Massachusetts and Edinburgh, Scotland. Vahe is also very active in the Congregational Church in Bridgewater, serving as assistant to the Organist and Chairman of the Outreach Committee.

He is married to Linda Jones of Los Angeles and they live with their children Jeffrey-Dicran, Christine-Adrine and Paul-Raffi in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

The Board of Directors of the AMAA extend congratulations to Vahe and rejoice in his successes.

## RENDEL LEVONIAN ADDS A NEW DIMENSION TO HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER



Rendel Levonian, M.D.

With an already significant background as a well-known surgeon with offices in Whittier, California, Dr. Rendel Levonian recently achieved another plateau when he helped found and launch the newly organized Bank of Whittier, Calif. As the Director of this new business banking institution, Dr. Levonian demonstrates another side to his capable qualities which lend themselves to the world of finance.

The Bank of Whittier, which opened its doors to the public on December 20, 1982, is unique in that it is committing itself to the special banking needs of business and professional people, thus assuring its customers of qualified, experienced, Business Banking Know-How to survive in and even take advantage of an economic climate that presents extraordinary challenges. While the emphasis is to serve the particular needs of business and professional people, the new bank also offers flexibility in its services and programs so that it can reach out to a wider range of banking needs. With an impressive and qualified list of officers and Board of Directors, this new bank is surely destined for a successful future.

Dr. Levonian is an American University of Beirut graduate with B.A. (1944) and M.D. (1948) Degrees. He became a resident surgeon in Bellevue Hospital in New York City from 1950-54 after which he served as a Captain in the U.S. Army from 1955-57. In private practice in General Surgery since 1957, he also became president of the Surgical Section of the Los Angeles County

Medical Assoc., and Chief of Staff of a Los Angeles area hospital.

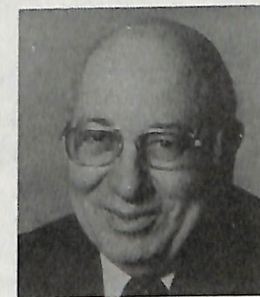
Despite the very busy life he leads, Dr. Levonian has also given of himself to charitable services. He was member for many years and chairman for two years of the California District Committee of the AMAA. He has been chairman of the Haigazian College Board of Trustees for some ten years as well as an interested and active ex officio member of the AMAA Board of Directors. In 1980, on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of Haigazian College, Dr. Levonian, along with a small group of outstanding personalities that included the well-known philanthropist, Mr. Alex Manoogian, was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree by the College in recognition of his distinguished services to the educational institution. Under his leadership, assisted by members of his Trustees and the Board of Directors, Haigazian College celebrated its 25th anniversary with a fund-raising campaign which raised \$500,000 in gifts and pledges.

Dr. Levonian is a member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood and gives strong support to the life of the church.

As a great humanitarian and dedicated Christian, Dr. Levonian has been extremely supportive of the financial needs of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and to this end has set up the Dr. and Mrs. Rendel Levonian Haigazian College Scholarship Fund, making him one of the twelve who will enable one deserving Armenian student to receive full scholarship each year throughout the life of the College. He also makes substantial annual contributions to the Prof. Loofti Levonian Fund the annual income from which is used for the training of ministers.

We proudly extol our brother in Christ for his plenary and meaningful life - blessed by God for his faithfulness to Him and to His creatures - and wish him continued success in all his endeavors, but especially in this latest and newest dimension in his life.

## SAMUEL MARDIAN JR. WINS AD CLUB'S MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



Sam Mardian

Former Phoenix Mayor Sam Mardian was selected 1982 Man of the Year by the Phoenix Advertising Club.

Mardian, a long-time generous supporter of Haigazian College and the AMAA, was cited for his service to the community.

In addition to being chairman and chief executive officer of the Mardian Construction Company, he served as mayor of Phoenix from 1960-64; served as president of the YMCA of Phoenix and the Valley of the Sun, and the Phoenix Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; was founding president and is on the executive committee of Arizonians for Cultural Development; is a member of the Phoenix 40; serves on the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church; is on the advisory board of the Barrow Neurological Foundation; serves as vice-chairman of the Arizona State University Foundation; is on the executive committee of both the Arizona Academy of Public Affairs and the Valley Forward Association; and is chairman of the Business Action Resource Council.

Described as "not the type that becomes highly visible and active for a short period and then moves on to something else," Mardian has given of himself and his resources year after year. Said a Selection Committee member, "His energies and interests have been and continue to be given willingly and effectively to activities contributing to the betterment of the community."

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their congratulations to Sam and wish him continued achievement and excellence in life and service.



# A BENEFACTRESS EMERGES: ELISE MERDINIAN USES AMAA AS CHANNEL OF HER CHARITIES



Miss Elise Merdinian

The Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Dr. G.H. Chopourian, revealed the generous extent of the charitable arrangements of Istanbul-born Miss Elise Merdinian who, working hard and creatively since her arrival in the United

States in 1926, amassed substantial wealth through her individual efforts. Her exceptional largesse is such that all her assets will be used for charitable purposes through three Trust Agreements under the supervision of the AMAA.

The first Agreement, a Charitable Unitrust, assigns the proceeds of three large buildings to the newly-established Armenian Evangelical School which has been named as the Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School. The second Agreement provides two buildings, with the understanding that a Christian Center will be created to be known as the Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Christian Education Center wherein worship services, Christian work with youth, Sunday School and Bible study will be carried on under the supervision of personnel of the AMAA which will also have its offices on campus. The third Agreement will create an Endowment Fund with the AMAA with annual income expendable for child education, evangelism, Christian literature, relief for the genuinely needy and other AMAA Christian projects.

The Board of Directors of the AMAA, which cooperated with and worked diligently on her proposals for a couple of years, were deeply inspired by Miss Merdinian's commitment and thank God for her Christian stewardship.

Using the occasion of the presence of AMAA Board members from the East at meetings of the Trustees of Haigazian College and Board of Directors of the AMAA on April 9 and 10, the AMAA, with the participation of the Armenian Evangelical School Board, held a Recognition Ceremony for Miss Merdinian when a capacity audience gathered in the Fireside Room of the United Armenian Congregational Church early Monday Evening, April 11, to honor Miss Elise Merdinian.

On behalf of the AMAA, President Dr. George Bezirgian and Executive Director Reverend Dr. G.H. Chopourian, both here from the East Coast, expressed sincere appreciation and presented her with a inscribed gold medallion. In describing her generosity Dr. Chopourian said, "She has given not only of her best, but all of it!" Miss Merdinian's response reflected her love and concern for others and her joy in giving.

Mr. Luther Eskijian and Mr. George Phillips had given many hours to the planning and legal work required to describe and record the gift. AMAA Treasurer Mr. Edward Janjigian, also from the East Coast, presented plaques of recognition to them in appreciation of their services.

AMAA West Coast Director Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, also Corresponding Secretary of the School Board, introduced

all the members of the AMAA. Besides those participating in the ceremony, members included Dr. Puzant Krikorian and Reverend Bernard Guekguezian (ex-officio), Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, both from Fresno; and from Southern California, Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian and ex-officio members Mr. Steve Kradjian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Federation, Dr. Rendel Levonian, Chairman of the Haigazian College Board of Trustees, and Dr. Joyce Stein, Representative of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

Mrs. Alice Haig, AMAA Vice-President and Chairman of the School Board, expressed thanks to Miss Merdinian on behalf of the School Board and introduced the Board and Staff of the school – a long, impressive list. Officers besides participants in the evening's program included Mr. Zaven Khanjian, Treasurer, Mr. Vahe Ashkarian, Associate Treasurer, and Mr. Hagop Loussararian, Recording Secretary.

Master of Ceremonies Mr. Hrant Agbabian, AMAA Board member and Vice-Chairman of the School Board, quoting from the school handbook, announced, "As the fortunate beneficiary of this heartfelt gift, the school has gratefully adopted the name **Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School.**" He also read the objectives of the school:

- a solid educational program beyond the requirements of the Code of Education of the State of California,
- religious instruction and spiritual guidance to help students develop a strong Christian character, and
- curricular enrichment which will enable students to acquire a thorough knowledge and full appreciation of the rich Armenian and American heritage.

A highlight of the evening was the performance by the students of the school. The Administrator/Chaplain, Mr. Daniel Albarian, expressed thanks on behalf of the students and staff, then presented the students, and the following teachers: Mrs. Vergine Mitilian, Mrs. Gilda Nargizian, and music instructor Mrs. Anahit Saribekyan. With Armenian songs and English recitations honoring Miss Merdinian, the students delighted their listeners. Their benefactress was especially touched when the children presented her their gifts: a box of the new school stationery bearing the new name on the letterhead, and a scrapbook prepared for her by all the children.

The tone for the warm, inspiring evening was set by the invocation given by the Reverend Vartkes Kassouni, pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church. The blessings of the benediction were spoken by the Reverend Edward Tovmassian, pastor of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church and Honorary Executive Secretary of the AMAA.

Following the ceremony, a buffet supper was served in the church social hall, and an Open House was held at the school, currently in the Sunday School wing of the UACC. Before the closing, Mr. Agbabian extended words of special thanks to those responsible for the social hour. He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Arpiar Janoyan for his creation and donation of an artistic, gold-leafed sign bearing the new name of the school in Armenian and English, just placed on the office door.

The awareness of a most generous gift given wholeheartedly and received most graciously colored the whole evening and made it truly memorable.

## THE STEINS HAVE AN INSPIRATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

*Editor's Note:* We extend our thanks to Mrs. Joyce Stein, Chairman of the Philibosian Foundation, for sharing with us highlights of the inspiring pilgrimage she and her family made recently to the Holy Land.

From the moment we landed at Ben Gurion airport, we knew we were on precious ground – for never in recorded history has God ordained a people to return to their land after a separation of over 2,000 years.

Joseph, Joyce and Stephanie Stein were privileged to join Bill and Vonette Bright and Campus Crusade for Christ friends on a nine-day tour of the Holy Land. Highlights of the sojourn were visits to Mount Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Bethlehem, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem.

One is never the same after making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The Lord Himself called it His Holy City; and truly, it expresses tangible evidence of our faith through its Biblical landmarks.

During the Week of Passion, we traced the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and we could see from that vantage point the Jewish graves atop the Mountain of Olives. Those buried claim the promise of Zechariah 14:4 and want to be present when the Messiah comes to that Mount and all Palestine will be changed. The site where Christ was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane reminded us of the awesome decision our Lord made – to die for sinful man.

Our steps now take us to Caiaphas' house where Christ was condemned to die, mocked and beaten. Finally, our walk with thousands of pilgrims on the Via Dolorosa to Calvary in overwhelming appreciation of God's love as expressed on that first Good Friday. We have indeed experienced the road to Golgotha.

On Easter morning at 6:00 a.m., we worshiped at the open garden tomb where Dr. Bright preached the good news to 3,000 people. Very appropriately, his theme focused on "Christ lives!" The passion, death and resurrection of our Lord has taken on a new dimension after this deeply spiritual and yet personal experience.

Jerusalem's separate world is inside the walled old city. Here resides the quiet Armenian Quarter – a welcome respite from the clamor outside. George Hintlian, menian Quarter – a welcome respite from the clamor outside. George Hintlian, Curator of the Helen and Edward Mardigian Museum and Secretary to the Patriarch, graciously guided us and nine other friends through the Armenian Cathedral of Saint James. This Cathedral, established in 301 A.D., is the traditional site of the beheading of the Apostle, Saint James, by the order of Herod in 44 A.D. In the ensuing 1,500 years, Armenian faithful have made pilgrimages to this precious site. The magnificent church houses rare Armenian art, in the manner of tiles, priceless filigreed crosses, altar pieces and thousands of Armenian crosses etched in its walls. Wooden clappers called the faithful to worship each day instead of the common bells.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher houses an Armenian section with its beautiful chapel depicting Armenian history in colorful mosaics. We were pleased to meet Bishop Guregh Kapikian, Principal of the local school, who has recently spearheaded new digs under that church revealing what he believes to be the Rock of Calvary.

We were taken to the Mardigian Museum, a tranquil arched 19th Century stone edifice in which one can see photographs of the Armenian Genocide along with the ancient Armenian churches of Turkey (now destroyed). The first printing press in Jerusalem was invented by an Armenian and stands in the museum as a symbol of that people's inventiveness and creativity. Beautiful vestments woven with gold, copperware and manuscripts can be seen and appreciated in this intriguing tour.

A day in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem is a must for our modern day pilgrims.



Joyce with oldest monk (89) in Brotherhood of St. James Monastery, Mashdotz Parilouysian.



Joe, Joyce and Stephanie Stein in front of St. James Armenian Cathedral. North gate is in shape of Armenian Church Cross.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times have I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me! (Matthew 23:37 – Good News Bible)



## FIELD DIRECTOR VISITS EAST COAST CHURCHES

During the past months, our Field Director, Mr. Moses B. Janbazian, visited a number of churches on the East Coast. Following a previously prepared itinerary he visited our supporting congregations and friends in Worcester and Boston, Mass.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Troy, N.Y.; Salem, N.H.; Chicago, Ill.; Detroit, Mich. and Toronto, Cambridge and Montreal, Canada. He reported that everywhere people received him warmly and responded to his appeals generously. Below are some of the AMAA friends who were visited by the Field Director.



(1) Mr. and Mrs. Murad Meneshian of Chicago, IL; (2) the members of the Council of the Armenian Congregational Church of Chicago pausing for picture after a cordial and fruitful meeting with our Field Director at the residence of Church Moderator, Mrs. Mary York.



(1) The Field Director with Mr. Jack Kazanjian (left) and Mr. John Hachigian of Chicago; (2) Mr. and Mrs. Karnig Sapsezeian cutting their 25th Anniversary Wedding cake at a party which was also attended by the Field Director; (3) (Left to right) Sisters, Mrs. Armen Sentell and Dr. Rose Menendian with cousin, Mrs. Gladys Menendian, and the Reverend Barkev Darakjian.

## AMAA SUPPORTS ARMENIAN DAY SCHOOLS IN NORTH AMERICA

One major problem faced by Armenians in North America is the possibility of loss of their ethnic identity. The second concern is the deterioration of wholesome family traditions, moral conduct and cultural values. Believing that education in Armenian day schools can instill in our children the values rooted in our centuries-old Armenian Christian heritage, the AMAA continues to encourage the Armenian day schools in North America. Along this line, the AMAA extends its support by way of small allocations to all Armenian day schools in the U.S. and Canada with the hope of increasing such support in the future.

The schools that received symbolic assistance from the AMAA for the 1982-83 academic year included: Alex Pilibos Armenian School of Hollywood, CA; American Armenian International College of La Verne, CA; Armenian Mesrobian School of Pico Rivera, CA; Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian High School of Encino, CA;

Holy Martyrs Armenian Primary School of Encino, CA; St. Mary's Armenian School of Glendale, CA; St. Peter AGBU Armenian Day School of Van Nuys, CA; Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School of Pasadena, CA; AGBU Armenian Elementary School of Watertown, MA; Alex Manoogian Armenian School of Southfield, MI; Armenian Relief Society Day School of Dearborn, MI; Armenian Day School of NJ, Inc. of New Milford, NJ; Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School of Bayside, NY; Armenian Sisters Academy of Radnor, PA; Tekeyan Cultural Association, Arshag Dikranian Armenian School of Los Angeles, CA; Armen-Quebec of Ville St. Laurent, Canada; Sourp Hagop Armenian Day School of Montreal, Canada; A.R.S. Babayan Kindergarten & Day

School of Willowdale, Canada. The principals of almost all the above-mentioned schools acknowledged AMAA's gift by special letters, commending the Board of Directors for their interest and involvement in the educational work of the Armenian schools. Sister Jeanette Arousiag, Principal of the Armenian Sisters Academy of Radnor, Pa., wrote: "It is most gratifying and encouraging to know that the Armenian day schools are included in the Armenian Missionary Association's budget. In time we look forward to the participation of all Armenian organizations so that Armenian day schools in the U.S. and Canada may flourish."

The AMAA believes our Christian ethnic heritage should be preserved and transmitted to our young generation.

In view of the current social and moral trends which are often damaging to our youth, the propagation of our spiritual and cultural values becomes a most urgent task, and the Armenian day schools are best suited to achieve this purpose.

(Continued on page 9)

## AMAA AND HAIGAZIAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET IN CALIFORNIA

The second weekend of April was a very busy period for at least three Boards related to Armenian Evangelical life, with activities centered in Greater Los Angeles.

### AMAA BOARD MEETS IN NORTH HOLLYWOOD

The Board of Directors of the Association held one of its meetings in the Fireside Lounge of the United Armenian Congregational Church in North Hollywood, California on Sunday, April 10, 1983. In addition to the Executive Director, Dr. G. H. Chopourian, East Coast members included George Bezirgian, M.D., AMAA President; Mr. Edward Janjigian, AMAA Treasurer and Mrs. Elida Telfeyan. Aside from West Coast Regional Director, Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, West Coast Board members present were: Mrs. Alice Haig, AMAA Vice President; Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian; Mr. Hrant Agbabian; The Reverends Bernard Guekguezian, Vartkes Kassouni, Edward Tovmassian; Mr. Steve Krajian; Puzant Krikorian, M.D.; Rendel Levonian, M.D.; Sarko Tilkian, M.D., and six guests.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was deliberately scheduled for April 10 so that the East Coast members could participate in some important events. The first of these was to meet with the Haigazian College Board of Trustees and Dr. Verne Fletcher who had been invited to Los Angeles for consideration of his candidacy for the presidency of Haigazian College. After cordial interviews, the Trustees strongly recommended his appointment to the AMAA Board, particularly in view of the fact that the Union of the Churches of the Near East had informed the AMAA of their readiness to endorse the appointment.

The second event was the recognition accorded to benefactress Elise Merdianian who provided a substantial sum to

(Continued from page 8)

This belief led the AMAA, jointly with the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, and the Greater Los Angeles area Armenian Evangelical Churches to encourage the founding of the Armenian Evangelical School of Los Angeles. This first evangelical educational institution in the U.S. has already completed its first successful year and looks forward to enrolling a larger num-

ber of students next year. For the academic year 1982-83, the AMAA provided an outright grant of \$20,000 as "seed money" for the school and has budgeted \$30,000 for fiscal 1983-84. As staff and student body increase, however, the need for more financial support becomes vitally essential for its existence. We appeal to our AMAA members and friends, therefore, to have a part in this new ministry.

the AMAA designated for the Armenian Evangelical Schools of California, Inc. to which the School Board reacted appreciatively by naming the school after Elise and Charlotte Merdianian (for story see page 6). East Coast Board members also met with all the area pastors - The Reverends Tovmassian, Kassouni, Melidonian, Djambazian, Chaparian - at a luncheon conference where the West Coast Regional Director, Dr. Pepronia Merjanian was also present. They visited and were most impressed by the new attractive AMAA West Coast office located at 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles. Additionally, they visited the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center (AESSC) located at 5250 Santa Monica Blvd., and were most gratified with the quality and extent of work performed by the AESSC Board and Hratch Baliozian, Director, and his staff. They also met with Larry Cretan who is directing the new "small business starts" project of the Center.

The East Coast Board members appreciated the opportunity of the semi-formal gathering at Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Abdulian's home which they attended soon after their arrival in Los Angeles on April 7. Here they met with keenly interested members and leaders of the AMAA on the West Coast, exchanged views and received constructive input on issues.

An important breakfast meeting was also held with leaders of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey at which time they were given an opportunity to see the newly enlarged church, all agreeing that the renovations were most modern, attractive and highly functional.

After a busy six days of fruitful accomplishments, the members returned home on April 12. In the words of the AMAA President, Dr. Bezirgian, "It was a learning experience!"

We would like to suggest that one of the most effective ways of bolstering up this new mission is by establishing endowment funds with the annual income assigned for use for Armenian schools in the U.S. This can help keep the doors of the schools open. In this way, we can be assured of the continuance of the Armenian Evangelical School as well as the establishment of more Armenian Schools in the nation.

### NEW PRESIDENT FOR HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE IS APPOINTED

The AMAA, founder and owner of Haigazian College in partnership with the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East (UAEC-NE), take pleasure in announcing the appointment of Verne H. Fletcher, Ph.D., currently the President of the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, as the new President of Haigazian College. He will commence his new duties for the academic year 1983-84 in June, 1983.

The selection process was thorough and orderly, with Dr. Herant Katchadourian, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Stanford University, who, acting as Chairman of the Selection Committee, covered all possible avenues to find the most qualified person.

The Trustees and the AMAA members on the Trustees, with Dr. Katchadourian, reviewed Dr. Fletcher's qualifications on April 9 and after having a series of conferences with him were favorably impressed by his candid comments which were direct, well organized, and to the point and recommended his appointment. On Sunday, April 10, the Chairman of the Haigazian College (H.C.), Dr. Rendel Levonian, presented the Trustee recommendation to the AMAA Board of Directors' meeting held at the United Armenian Congregational Church in North Hollywood. The customary annual West Coast Board meeting was held at this particular time in order to facilitate and expedite the decision for the appointment of a new president for H.C.

The conferences with Dr. Fletcher were invaluable to those in attendance because they learned more about his background, personality, achievements, capabilities and outlook. The dialogue revealed sound, astute and encouraging answers to numerous im-



portant questions which indicated his heart is in the issues raised and that it will be his particular pleasure to introduce sound academic programs for the growth of the College and develop cordial relationships with the Armenian community which he has come to love and respect.

#### DR. FLETCHER, A WORTHY PRESIDENT

Dr. Verne H. Fletcher, born on June 3, 1922 in Massachusetts, has a distinguished record of services and achievements. As the son of an itinerant evangelist, he chose to follow in his father's steps by entering the pastoral ministry.

His educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wheaton College with a major in History followed with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1948 from Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. He later studied at the Faculte Reformee in Montpellier, France on a Church History Fellowship from Princeton Seminary and at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago where he completed his doctoral studies in 1961, obtaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Ethics and Society. His dissertation was on "A Theological Approach to a Social Theory of Community." He engaged in service to refugees in Germany and Austria under the World Council of Churches with fourteen months of study at the Sorbonne in Paris on Sociology and Social Thought. He served as pastor in more than four churches. From 1963-1969, he was assigned to

the United Theological College of Jogjakarta, Indonesia under the United Church Board for World Ministries, where he taught Ethics, Sociology and Theological English. Since 1969 Dr. Fletcher has been Professor of Systematic Theology and Social Ethics at the NEST in addition to being its president since 1978.

Dr. Fletcher has contributed articles in more than 20 publications in magazines and journals such as the Christian Century, South East Asia Journal of Theology, Scottish Journal of Theology, Theology Today, etc.

Dr. Fletcher has been of great benefit to Armenian youth in training for the ministry at the NEST. Closely acquainted with our Armenian Evangelical Church in the Middle East, his appointment comes at a most critical and useful time when the churches in Lebanon are now struggling to get on their feet after the 9-year political disturbances in the country. Because Dr. Fletcher is a missionary, affiliated with the United Church Board for World Ministries, he is now another link to the church reformation that occurred in Istanbul in 1846.

At this juncture, when it was difficult to find qualified brave persons to undertake the leadership of H.C. in view of the continued unsafe conditions in Beirut, Dr. Fletcher is indeed a god-send. Because he faithfully stood by the theological institution he served for nine years under grave dangers, he has earned the admiration, cooperation and love of the student body, particularly of the Armenian students in pastoral training.

The founding partners of Haigazian College, the AMAA and UAEC-NE, as well as the Board of Trustees and Managers of the College, consider it to be God's leading that Dr. Fletcher takes the helm at this time. We are confident he will guide this prominent educational institutions to even greater heights.

#### PLANS FOR AN AMAA DELEGATION TO LEBANON ALTERED

After a year's delay in accepting the invitation of the UAEC-NE to have an AMAA delegation visit Lebanon because of instability in the area, the AMAA Board approved the visitation to take place from May 13-23 with a 4-member delegation composed of: George Bezirgian, AMAA President; Edward Janjigian, AMAA Treasurer; Nerses Aynilian, Board member and G. H. Chopourian, AMAA Executive Director.

This visitation, planned for the purpose of observing and evaluating projects that the Association supports, had to be postponed again due to recent disturbances in Beirut. The delegation was not fearful about their own safety, but realized that their work would not be as productive under such conditions. Hence, it has been decided that the delegation would accomplish more by going on or about the 20th of October when the schools in Lebanon reopen.

God willing, they prayerfully anticipate to act on the invitation of the UAEC-NE next fall.

#### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Pursuant to past tradition the anniversary of the Christian Endeavor Society was celebrated in the Middle East in February. As in previous years, the celebrations included youth rallies, exhibitions of the works of young artists, athletic competitions, lectures and special services of praise. On Sunday, February 6, C.E. leaders and members led the morning worship service in all the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Syria and Lebanon. The testimonies and messages shared on the occasion highlighted, once again, the important role the C.E. Societies play in the Christian growth of young men and women. The anniversary celebrations were also highlighted by a special gala banquet which was held on February 20th in Beirut. The banquet was attended by a large of number of C.E. members and friends as well as clergymen and lay leaders from



The Christian Endeavor Society of the Nahadagatz Armenian Evangelical Church of Aleppo, Syria. AMAA had special Christmas and New Year greetings from these devoted Christians.

#### KARNIG and ARAXIE SAPSEZIAN CELEBRATE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Karnig and Araxie Sapsezian of Chicago, Illinois, marked their 25th Wedding Anniversary by a special party organized by their children on Sunday, April 10, 1983.

The Anniversary gathering was attended by a large number of family members and friends of the Sapsezians as well as our Field Director, the Rev. Moses B. Janbazian, who was visiting Chicago on AMAA business at that time.

all Armenian Evangelical Churches.

The Christian Endeavor Society was founded in the Middle East in the 1920s. Currently, there are close to ten C.E. groups that operate under the auspices of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East. These societies, in addition to conducting an efficient Christian ministry among our youth in the area, jointly maintain an impressive Christian outreach which includes Daily Vacation Bible Schools, Youth Camps, Christian publications - "Chanasser," "Louys," "Badanegan Artzakan" and the "Christian Family's Calendar" - as well as other Christian services.

The AMAA, which has always had a keen interest in the spiritual edification of our young generation, has supported the work of the C.E. Societies in the Middle East. This special organization, whose motto is "For Christ and the Church," continues to provide a marvelous ministry through which many young lives are touched and brought under the saving power of Christ.

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(1) Dr. J.J. Markarian, G.H. Chopourian, Mrs. Helen Barsumian Grimsley, Dr. Verne Fletcher, Dr. Rendel Levonian; (2) Mr. J. Kotchumian (H.C. Alumnus), Dr. Hrant Katchadourian; (3) Miss Mary Varjian, Miss Mary Diran, Mr. Levon Gulesserian, Mrs. Alice Haig, Mr. Edward Janjigian; (4) Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kurkjian.

#### FRIENDS VISIT OUR PARAMUS HEADQUARTERS

During the past few months, we had the pleasure of receiving the following friends into our offices in Paramus, New Jersey:

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Moranian of Livingston, N.J.;  
Haig Messerlian, Executive Director, AGBU;

Zaven Messerlian, Principal, First Armenian College, Beirut;  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bedrossian of Fresno, CA.;  
Mike Balabanian and Ovse Hakimian of Toronto;  
Mr. and Mrs. Vahe Avedikian of Roselle, N.J. and son, Paul;  
Dr. Verne Fletcher, newly appointed President of Haigazian College;

Larry Amerian Murphy of San Jose, CA.;  
Hrair Mouradian of Beirut;  
Mr. and Mrs. George Movesian of Bergenfield, N.J.;  
Dr. John Khanjian of Salina, Kansas;  
Reverend Greg (Krikor) Keosaian; and the members of the Board of The Armenian National Sanatorium.  
It was a real pleasure to welcome these friends to our Headquarters.



## ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆԶԱԿԱՆԻ ՍԻՐՏԸ

Գրեց՝ Դանիէլ Ապտուլեան

Կիրակի, 19 Մարտ 1983ին, Հայկվու-տի Միացեալ Հայ Ժողովական Եկեղեց-ւոյ Աւետարանական Յանձնախումբը ունեցաւ իր տարեկան աւանդական ճաշ-կերոյթը, որու ընթացքին, այլ անձնաւորութիւններու կարգին, խօսք առաւ նաեւ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան Վարչական Խորհուրդի նախկին ան-դամներէն՝ Տոքթ. Դանիէլ Ապտուլեան։

Տոքթ. Ապտուլեան, իր խօսքին մէջ ան-դրադարձաւ Հայ Աւետարանական Ըն-կերակցութեան վարչութեան տարիներու վաստակին ու թանկագին ծառա-յութիւններուն։

Ամերիկահայ գաղութին, եւ մասնա-ւորապէս Հայ Աւետարանական շրջա-նակներու մէջ, Տոքթ. Դանիէլ Ապտուլ-եան սիրուած ու յարգուած ազգային մըն է, որ իր ժամանակը, տաղանդներն ու նիւթական կարելիութիւնները, առանց սակարկութեան եւ յարատեւօրէն ի սպաս կը դնէ իր ազգին ու եկեղեցիին։ Ստորեւ, նրախոսքեամբ կը ներկայա-ցնենք Տոքթ. Ապտուլեանի խօսքը Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան մասին։

Որպէս բժիշկ, ինչ կրնամ ըսել Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան մասին, ինձի տրամադրուած այս հինգ վարկեաններուն մէջ։ Կ'ուզեմ խօսիլ Աւետարանականի արտին մասին։ Սիրտ մը՝ սիրով բաբայում։ Սիրտ մը՝ հրա-բորբ, այլ կարելից։ Սիրտ մը՝ երիտա-սարդ բայց խոհուն։ Սիրտ մը, որ յարա-տեւօրէն կենսահիւք կը բաշխէ իր շրջա-տեսակին։ Սիրտ մը, որ շնչերակային կա-պերով միացած է Հայութեան։ Բայց թող պատմութիւնը խօսի. . .

Բախտորոշ օր մը, 7 Յունիս 1918ին, Ուստրիի Հայ Աւետ. Նահատակաց Եկե-ղեցիին մէջ, հիմը դրուեցաւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետ. Ընկերակցութեան։ Կարծես նախախնամականօրէն գոյութեան եկաւ ան, որպէսզի հասներ Մեծ Եղեռնէն մա-զապործ ազատած Հայ բեկորներուն բազմապիսի ու անշտամագելի նիւթա-կան, ընկերային, կրթական ու հոգեւոր կարիքներուն։ Անապատէն՝ Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի քաղաքներուն մերձակայ հիւ-դաւանները ժամանող սովահար, ան-պատասպար ու անյոյս Հայ խլեակներուն համար երկինքէն ցողացող մանանայի նման կենսաստու եղաւ Հայ Աւետարան-ական Ընկերակցութեան օժանդակու-թիւնը։ Որքան աւելի ահաւոր պիտի ըլ-լար աղէտը, եթէ չհասներ Աւետարան-ականի նպաստը։

Տարիներու թաւալումին հետ միասին, փոխուեցաւ գաղթաշխարհի Հայութեան կեանքը, եւ Հայ Աւետարանականն ալ, տակաւ առ տակաւ, մեծցաւ, զօրացաւ ու հասունցաւ։ Այսօր, վաթսունհինգ տարի-ներու թանկարժէք վաստակ մը ունի ան իր ետին, եւ անոր գործունէութեան դաշ-տը կը տարածուի երկրագունդի չորս ծագերուն, մինչեւ իսկ հոս՝ մեր մէջ։

Համառօտ կերպով յիշենք Աւետա-րանական Ընկերակցութեան մի քանի ծառայութիւնները. -

Ա.-Կրթական մարզէն ներս, Հայ Աւետարանականը ամէն տարի մեծագու-մար յատկացումներ կ'ընէ (իր տարե-կան պիտուէին 35 տոկոսը) որպէս՝ կըր-թաթոշակ նիւթապէս անկարող Հայ աշակերտներու, որպէզի անոնք չզըր-կուին ուսումնէն եւ հալեցի դաստիարակու-թեան։ Քաջ գիտնալով, թէ ազգի մը ապագան կը պայմանաւորուի իր ան-դամներուն կրթական ու մշակութային վերելքով, Աւետարանականը մեծ գու-մարներով կ'օժանդակէ Հայ կրթական հաստատութիւններու, որոնց լաւագոյն օրինակներէն մէկը կը հանդիսանայ Հայկազեան Գոյէճը։ Մեր հայրենիքէն դուրս գտնուող բարձրագոյն կրթութեան հայկական այս միակ անկախ օժանդ, կը հանդիսանայ նաեւ հայութեան մէկ նպաս-տը՝ մեր ժողովուրդը հիւրընկալող արաբ ժողովուրդին։

Անցեալ տարի բացուեցաւ Միացեալ Նահանգներու առաջին Հայ Աւետարա-նական դպրոցը հոս՝ Հոլիվուտի մէջ։ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութիւնը ոչ միայն իր մեծ բաժինը ունեցաւ դպրո-ցին հիմնադրութեան մէջ, այլեւ իշխա-նական յատկացումով մը երաշխաւորեց դպրոցին առաջին տարւան պիտուէին մեծ մասը։ Աւետարանականը յանձ-նառութիւն ունի ամէն գնով բաց պահե-լու Հայ Աւետարանական այս դպրոցին դնէրը, որպէսզի այս շրջանի մեր մատ-ղաշ սերունդը չզրկուի հայեցի եւ քրիս-տոնէական դաստիարակութենէ։

Բ.-Բարոգիչներու, հոգեւոր հովիւներու եւ կրթական մշակներու պատրաստու-թեան մէջ, Աւետարանականը, տարի-ներ շարունակ մեծ դեր ունեցած է, ըլլալ հոս՝ Միացեալ Նահանգներ եւ կամ Մերձաւոր Արեւելք, ուրկէ կուգայ մեր հովիւներուն մեծ մասը։

Գ.-Աւետարանականը ամէն տարի, մասնաւոր յատկացումներով կ'օժանդա-կէ եկեղեցիներու շինութեան, ոչ-ինքնա-բաւ եկեղեցիներու պահպանումին, ան-



Տոքթ. Դանիէլ Ապտուլեան

րահաստատ եկեղեցիներու զօրացման եւ մեծ թիով աւետարանիչներու հոգե-ւոր գործին։

Դ.-Միացեալ Նահանգներու առաջին Հայ ընկերային ծառայութեան կեդրոնը հաստատուեցաւ հոս՝ Հոլիվուտի մէջ։ Այս կեդրոնը, որ իր ծառայութիւնը կը մատուցանէ նորահաս բոլոր հայ գաղ-թականներուն առանց խտրութեան, հիմնուեցաւ ու կը շարունակէ գործել Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան քաջալերութեամբ ու նիւթական օժան-դակութիւնով։

Այսօր, երախտագիտական մեծ պարտ մը ունինք Աւետարանականի անցեալի ու ներկայի բոլոր վարչական խորհուրդի անդամներուն, գործադիր վարիչներուն եւ հաստատրիմ անդամնե-րուն, որոնց անխոնջ աշխատանքին, եւ անձնուէր ջանքերուն շնորհիւ, Հայ Աւե-տարանական համայնքը ունի Հայ Աւե-տարանական Ընկերակցութեան նման փառաւոր ու անմասն կազմակերպու-թիւն մը։

Արդ, ինչ է Աւետարանականը եւ ինչ-պիսի սիրտ մը ունի ան։

Ան հայր մըն է, սիրով լեցուն սրտով մը։

Ան մայր մըն է, գորովով լեցուն սըր-տով մը։

Ան եղբայր մըն է, կարեկցութեամբ լե-ցուն սրտով մը։

Ան քոյր մըն է, գուրով լեցուն սրտով մը։

Հայ Աւետարանականը այնքան զօ-րաւոր է ու ազդու, որքան անոր անդամ-ներուն նուիրումն ու նուիրաբերումը։

Այսօր տեղին է յիշել անոր հիմնա-դիրներուն կարգախօսը. -

«Իրաքանչիւր Հայ Աւետարանական անհատ, պէտք է անհրաժեշտօրէն ան-դամագրուի Աւետարանականին։ Արդ, համախումբօրինք այս մեծ կազմակեր-պութեան շուրջ, մեզի հետ բերելով նաեւ ուրիշներ։ Ուրախութեամբ նուիրուինք ու նուիրենք անոր գործին, վասն պանծա-ցման Հայ դպրութեան, մեր եկեղեցիներ-ուն ու մեր Տիրոջ՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Սուրբ Անունին։

## ՀԱՅԿԱԶԵԱՆ ԳՈՒԼԵԾԻ ԵՐԱԽՏԱՆՇԱՆ ԳՈՐԾԸ

Գրեց՝ Ներսէս Պապեան



Պրն. Ներսէս Պապեան

քեւ, Գոյէճը կը շարունակէ նաեւ կրթա-կան իր անշեղ առաքելութիւնը այն ժո-ղովուրդի գաւակներուն համար որ զըր-կաբաց ընդունած է Հայ Ցեղին բեկոր-ները, Մեծ Եղեռնէն վերջ։

Որպէսզի յարատեւ բոլորաճուրէր իր աշխատանքը ի սպաս քրիստոնէական հաւատքի եւ Հայ Դպրութեան յաւեր-ծութեան, Հայկազեան Գոյէճը պէտք է շարունակէ օժանդակութիւնը համատա-րած Հայ ժողովուրդին։

Հակառակ իր ծննդավայր Լիբանանի վերջին ութամեայ զինեալ տագնապին, Հայկազեան Գոյէճը հաւատարիմ մնա-լով իր կոչումին բաց պահեց իր դռները, կրթական եւ ի պահանջել հարկին մար-դասիրական նպատակներու համար։

Հայկազեան Գոյիճի շրջանաւարտ հունձքը այսօր, Պէլուքէն՝ Նիւ Եորք, Լոս Անճելէսէն՝ Լոնտոն եւ այլուր, հոգեկան վանաւորութիւնը Հայ Աւետարանական համայնքին, Գոյէճը, աւելի քան քառորդ դար, անխտիր կերպով ջամբած է բար-ձրորակ ուսում։ Ժիշդ է որ բարձրագոյն ուսմանց այս կեդրոնը՝ ուսանողութիւնը կը պատրաստէ արդի կեանքի բազմա-կան աստիճաններուն, այսուհանդերձ, հոն, նոյնքան կարեւորութիւն կ'ընձայուի հայկական գիտելիքներու ուսումնան եւ հոգեւոր արժէքներու պահպանման։ Հայկազեան Գոյէճը, արդարեւ, Հայաս-տանէն դուրս, կը մնայ իբրեւ միակ Հայ Դպրութեանց կեդրոնը՝ Հայագիտական իր ծաւալուն դասընթացքներով, հայկա-կան ճոխ մատենադարանով եւ ուսում-նական-հետազօտական բազմաթիւ հրատարակութիւններով։ Այս երեւոյթը ինքնին, կուգայ հաստատելու անժխտելի այն ճշմարտութիւնը, թէ Հայ-կազեան Գոյէճը եղած է Հայ ժողովուր-դին բոլոր խաւերուն եւ հոսանքներուն սիրոյ եւ գուրգուրալի հոգածութեան ա-ռարկայ հաստատութիւն մը։

Սակայն Հայկազեան Գոյէճը պէտք չէ դիտել սոսկ Հայկական-ազգային ծիւղ-ներէ։ Հաստատուած ըլլալով օտարերկ-րեայ այլ հիւրերէն երկնակամարի ներ-

վերջերս ստացուած նամակներէ կարգ մը հատուածներ, որոնք գեղեցիկ վկա-յութիւններ կը ներկայացնեն Աւետա-րանական Ընկերակցութեան գործին ու ծառայութեան մասին։

Տրանսա հրատարակուող հոգեւոր ամսաթերթ՝ Բամբէրի գանձապահը, Պրն. Շահէն Մակարեան կը գրէ. -

«Ուրախ եմք որ հակառակ ներկայ աննպաստ պայմաններուն կրցանք Բամբէրը հրատարակել առանց դադա-րի։ Յոյսով եմք, որ Տէրը պիտի օգնէ մե-զի, որպէսզի շարունակենք Բամբէրին միջոցով Աստուծոյ անխաղախ խօսքին միխթարութիւնը հասցնել մօտ 2500 Հայ ազգի գաւակներու։ Ուստի շատ բան կը պարտինք Հայ Աւետարանական Ըն-կերակցութեան եւ բոլոր ազնուամեղ անձներուն, որոնք միշտ քաջալերած են մեզ իրենց աղօթքներով ու գոհողութիւն-ներով։ Թող Աստուած օրհնէ Աւետա-րանականը ու ամէն անոնք, որոնք մեր ձեռքերը վեր կը բռնեն։»

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Մոնթելիտեղէն (Պոլսկույա), Տիկ. Նուարդ Մելքիսէթեան, Աւետարանա-կան Ընկերակցութեան Ծրջանային Տնօրէնին ուղղած նամակի մը մէջ կը գրէ. -

«Ձեր հոս գտնուած ժամանակը մեզի եւ եկեղեցւոյ ժողովուրդին համար մեծ օրհնութիւն եղաւ։ Մանաւանդ մկրտու-թեան պաշտամունքը, որ երկար տարի-ներէ ի վեր չէինք ունենար։ Այդ պաշ-տամունքը մեծ ազդեցութիւն ձգեց իմ եւ բոլոր ժողովուրդին վրայ։

«Այս նամակով, Անի Էօրտէքեանի այս տարուայ կրթաթոշակին մեր 75 տո-լարի նպաստը կը յղկենք։ Իրեն համար աղօթող եմք որ ըլլայ բարի եւ ապա-գային ալ, օգտակար անձ մը։»

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Այնճարէն (Լիբանան) Առաքել Ծեր-պէթեան հետեւեալ բառերով երախ-տագիտութիւն կը յայտնէ իր գաւակին բարերարին. -

«Պատուարժան Բարերար Հայրենա-կից,

«Այս երկտող նամակը գրելով իմ սըր-տագին շնորհակալութիւններս կը յայտ-նեմ ձեզի։ Հակառակ անոր որ հեռու էք Հայաբնակ մեր Այնճար Գիւղաքաղա-քէն ու մենք ծանօթ չենք ձեզի, կը մաս-նակցիք մեր ժծարարութեան եւ կ'օգնէք մեր գաւակներուն։ Մեր չորս գաւակնե-րէն երկուքը, Աւոն ու Մատլէնը ձեր օգ-նութեամբ դպրոց կ'երթան։ Ինձի ան-ծանօթ իմ գաւակներուն բարերարները, Աստուած ձեզի աւելիով վարձատրէ։ Եթէ օր մը այս երկիրը հանդիպիք, իմ տունս բաց է ձեզի եւ ուրախ պիտի ըլ-լամ եթէ ծանօթանանք իրարու։ Աստուած ձեր գաւակներուն երկար օրեր պարգեւէ։»

## ՆԱՄԱԿՆԵՐ

Վարչական ընթացիկ գործերու վե-րաբերող թղթակցութիւններէ զատ, ամէն օր, Աւետարանականի բարեկամ-ներէն ու նպաստընկալներէն կը ստա-նանք տասնեակներով նամակներ, որոնք կը հաստատեն թէ մեր աշխատու-թիւնը «պարապ չէ Տէրոջմով»։ Ա. Կորթ. ԺԵ. 58։

Այս թիով մեր անդամներուն ու բարե-կամներուն հետ կը բաժնեկցինք



**Sympathies extended:** - The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.



Sarkis and his surviving wife Mary Paul Mooradian.

#### SARKIS MOORADIAN

A very dear friend of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Sarkis Mooradian, entered his eternal rest at the age of 83 in Lancaster, PA.

Born in (Koylou) Kharpert on March 5, 1895 he left his native home on September 10, 1912 and reached the shores of his beloved adopted country on March 15, 1913, finally settling in Lancaster in 1915 where he engaged in the Oriental Rug Business for over 50 years. He operated businesses as in New York, Frederick and Lancaster. He was married in Lancaster on August 27, 1952 and the marriage was an extremely happy one with both couples outbidding the other in performing loving courtesies for each other, with Sarkis coming with tender loving gifts everyday of the week.

Sarkis's happiness was only marred by the tragedies that befell his family. He and his surviving brother, Arthur, are the only family members that were saved from the Turkish atrocities of 1915. His mother, twin sister, sister-in-law and her two children were all victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Turks. Sarkis was affiliated with the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Haver-town and a member of his much loved Armenian Missionary Association of America and the AGBU.

At every turn, Sarkis had a humor for every occasion perhaps used as an unconscious mechanism to cover up the past tra-

gedies of his family. As his pastor said during the funeral service, "Somehow, I feel that at any moment, as we speak about him, he will raise his hand and say, 'Reverend, are you sure you're speaking about me.' " That was the impact of his personality, - a gregarious, lively, happy, loving, humorous but caring individual.

#### REVEREND MELVIN MOOMJEAN

Submitted by Mary Moomjean



The Rev. Melvin Moomjian

Melvin V. Moomjean passed to his reward and the Savior he loved so much on March 8, 1983 at the age of 77 years. He died of a stroke.

Melvin was born in Fresno, California and came to Los Angeles at the age of twenty to

find secular work. His family soon followed and they founded a church called The Community House of God. Melvin preached and provided leadership to the young people.

It was in Los Angeles that Melvin met his wife, Mary Kramer, who was a missionary's daughter. They had five children who came to bless their home.

In 1943, Melvin took the Pastorate of Community House of God when his father retired. His ministry there was greatly blessed with many thousands of dollars a year going to missions.

In 1969, Melvin left the Community House of God to serve the AMAA for four years. He also served as English speaker each Sunday at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church for five years.

Bad health finally forced him to retire completely from the ministry.

Melvin Moomjean lived a full and active life for his Master whom he loved so dearly. One of his favorite songs was:

"I saw a blood-washed pilgrim  
A sinner saved by grace  
Upon the King's great highway  
With peaceful, shining face  
Temptations sore beset him  
But nothing could affright  
He said, 'the yoke is easy  
The burden, it is light'  
Then palms of victory,  
Crowns of glory,  
Palms of victory I shall wear"

#### TAKOUI KELEDJIAN

Submitted by Eunice Chamichian

Takouhi Keledjian was born to Hetoum and Arousiag Philian on September 17, 1909 in Bitlias, one of the seven hamlets of historic Mousa Dag. Takouhi and her family were among the 6,000 inhabitants of Musa Dag who took refuge on a mountain top and valiantly fought for their destiny for forty days. Among the valiant fighters was Takouhi's future husband, Hovhannes Keledjian, whom she married in 1927.

A virtuous woman, Takouhi became a devoted mother who nurtured her six children in the principles of Christian moral values.

In 1939, Takouhi and her family, along with the Armenian population of Mousa Dag, were uprooted and Zahle, Lebanon became their home. Later, they settled in Ainjar, a land of new challenges and promise.

In 1967, the Keledjians immigrated to the

United States and made their home in Fresno, close to three of their children who had preceded them.

Though she lost her husband in 1970, Takouhi was surrounded by her six children and nineteen grandchildren. Her courage under the most adverse circumstances, resourcefulness, industrious life and an unquenchable thirst for continuous learning were highlights of her personality.

On January 16, 1983, Takouhi's earthly life was interrupted and she entered her eternal rest following a brief illness.

Takouhi Keledjian is survived by two sons: George and Henry; four daughters: Mrs. Movses (Martha) Kerkejian, Mrs. Iskender (Dzoghig) Stambulian, Mrs. Arsen (Sona) Alikian and Mrs. Vahe (Maro) Sagherian; nineteen grandchildren; three brothers and three sisters.

May God bless her memory " . . . for her deeds will follow her." Rev. 14:13

#### MRS. NEVART KESHISHIAN

Nevart Keshishian was born in Adana to Armenag and Diroohy Vartanian. The family moved to Egypt first, and from there, to Aleppo, Syria. Her mother's puritanic concepts and life had greatly influenced her. She attended a local Armenian Catholic School and showed great talent in singing.

In 1927, she married Kenan Keshishian and, soon afterwards, the couple left for San Paulo, Brazil, where they lived for over fifty years. They raised three children there, one girl, and two boys. They all were active members in the Armenian Evangelical Church. Nevart was very much involved in the church choir and often gave solos. She used her talents for the glory of God and in the service of her church. In 1978, she had a stroke which confined her to bed for the rest of her life. In 1980, her daughter, Loucine, and son-in-law, Haroutyun Ouzounian, managed to bring her, and her husband, Kenan, to the United States. They lived together in Mundelein, Illinois where Nevart enjoyed the loving care of her husband, her daughter, son-in-law and his two children.

She entered her eternal rest on February 4, 1983 in Mundelein, Illinois.

May God bless her memory to those who knew Nevart and particularly to her dear ones.

#### MRS. TOORVANDA ARAKELIAN

Mrs. Toorvanda Arakelian of Peabody, Massachusetts, passed away on February 14, 1983 at the Salem Hospital after a long illness. She was 94 years old.

She was born in Harpout, Armenia in 1888, the daughter of the late Krikor and Altoon (Bedrosian) Danielian. She was married to the late Vartan Arakelian. She came to the United States in 1910 with her husband and mother and settled in Peabody,



Toorvanda Arakelian

Massachusetts, where her father had settled in the late 1890s. Mrs. Arakelian lived in Peabody for the last 72 years.

Toorvanda Arakelian's whole life was dedicated to her family and her church. She was a charter member of the Salem-Peabody chapter of the AGBU, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem, New Hampshire.

She is survived by five children: Peter Arakelian of New Canaan, Connecticut; Haig Arakelian of Peabody, Massachusetts; Jordan Arakelian of San Bernadino, California; Mary Arakelian and Ethel Arakelian, both of Peabody, Massachusetts. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

#### MRS. G. A. (ANN) GOSHGARIAN



Ann Goshgarian

Mrs. G.A. (Ann Van Hoof) Goshgarian died unexpectedly at her home in Grayslake, Illinois. Formerly of Little Chute, Ann was a graduate of Mercy Medical School of Nursing, Oshkosh, and had worked as a registered nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Jane Janssen Van Hoof.

Ann is survived by her husband, Dr. G.A. Goshgarian; a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Julie) Goshgarian, a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Julie) Goshgarian, three sons: David, Dr. Marso, Milwaukee; three sons: David, Dr. Gerard, and John, all of Grayslake, Illinois; eight grandchildren; three brothers and two sisters.

*The Lord is my shepherd:  
I shall not want. He maketh  
me to lie down in green pas-  
tures: he leadeth me beside the  
still waters. He restoreth my  
soul: he leadeth me in the  
paths of righteousness for his  
name's sake. Yea, though I  
walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death, I will  
fear no evil: for thou art  
with me; thy rod and thy  
staff they comfort me. Thou  
preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine  
enemies: Thou anointest my  
head with oil: my cup runneth  
over. Surely goodness and  
mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life: and I  
shall dwell in the house  
of the Lord for ever.*

Twenty-Third Psalm

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

- \*Mr. Jack Apelian  
Skokie, IL
- \*Mr. Berj Kasarjian  
Beirut, Lebanon
- Mrs. G.A. Goshgarian  
Grayslake, IL July 5, 1982
- \*Mrs. Ovsanna Masarian Moranian  
New Jersey Dec. 1, 1982
- Mr. Aslan Turoonjian  
Bakersfield, CA Jan. 20, 1983
- Mrs. Sara (Siranoush) Amerkhanian  
Los Angeles, CA Jan. 29, 1983
- \*Mrs. Maritza Mikaelian  
Calumet City, IL Feb. 7, 1983
- Mrs. Alice Farajian  
San Francisco, CA Feb. 12, 1983
- Mrs. Leah Asbed  
University City, MO Feb. 13, 1983
- Mrs. Toorvanda Arakelian  
Peabody, MA Feb. 14, 1983
- Mrs. Flora Ishkanian  
Berlin, WI March 4, 1983
- \*The Rev. Melvin Moomjean  
Montebello, CA March 8, 1983
- Mrs. Anna Avedisian  
Fresno, CA March 13, 1983
- Mrs. Eva Manaselian  
Fresno, CA March 21, 1983
- Mrs. Araxy Shamdanjian  
Fresno, CA March 22, 1983
- Mrs. Takouhi Yakoubian  
Palisades, NJ April 9, 1983
- Prof. Aram Vartanian  
Los Angeles, CA April 23, 1983
- \*Mr. James Davidian  
Westwood, NJ May 10, 1983

\*Memorials were designated for AMAA.



ANNOUNCING OUR

# JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC

ORGANIZED

by

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

of the

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1982

AT THE

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION GROUNDS

140 Forest Avenue

Paramus, New Jersey

★ Shish Kebab Dinner (serving from 1:00 - 5:00)

★ Prizes as Outright Gifts

**We welcome all from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.**

**Donation: \$7:50 Adults**

**\$4:00 for Children Under 12**

**Directions:** Proceed West on Route 4 from George Washington Bridge about 8 miles to Forest Avenue. Exit on Forest, proceed about 1/2 mile to Headquarters of AMAA and Armenian Presbyterian Church on right.

Coming from West to East on Route 4, cross Route 17 and proceed to Forest. Exit, take jug handle turn, cross over Route 4 to Headquarters as above.

## 64TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMAA

**Please Note and Circle Your Calendar:** The 64th Annual Meeting and related activities of the Armenian Missionary Association will be held on the week-end of Saturday/Sunday, October 15th & 16th, 1983 at the First Armenian Church, Belmont, Massachusetts.

**Armenian Missionary Association of America**

140 Forest Avenue  
Paramus, NJ 07652

MR JACK TOROSIAN  
666 WEST 207th ST  
NEW YORK NY 10034

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